

Application/Control Number: 09/475,630

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claims pto

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1. (currently amended) A method of delivering goods from a supplier to a buyer utilizing a system having at least one delivery agent, at least one store, at least one supplier, and a plurality of buyers, wherein the at least one delivery agent, the at least one store, and the at least one supplier are coupled to a communications network, said method comprising the steps of:

simultaneously communicating respective order information from a respective store to a logistics intermediary;

generating respective invoice information from said respective order information;

electronically communicating said respective invoice information from said logistics intermediary to a respective delivery agent based on an electronic manifest;

noting exceptions and electronically communicating the exceptions to said logistics intermediary, wherein the exceptions are noted and electronically communicated by said respective delivery agent;

electronically communicating the exceptions from said logistics intermediary to a respective supplier and to the respective store from which goods were ordered;

electronically communicating a disposition status of respective shipped goods from said respective delivery agent to said logistics intermediary;

responding, by said respective supplier, based on conditions of the respective shipped goods provided by said respective delivery agent to said respective supplier via said logistics intermediary, wherein said responding based on the conditions includes rescheduling in order, by the respective supplier, based on the conditions recorded via a graphical user interface by the respective delivery agent after the respective shipped goods are received by the respective delivery agent that delivers the respective shipped goods to one of the buyers of the respective shipped goods, wherein said rescheduling the order is based on at least one of:

a reception, via a graphical user interface, of whether the respective shipped goods are notified as being delivered after the respective stored goods are received by the respective delivery agent;

a reception, via the graphical user interface, of whether the respective shipped goods shipped to the respective delivery agent are not expected to be received by the respective delivery agent; and

updating said electronic manifest, wherein said electronic manifest is updated by said logistics intermediary.

2. (previously presented) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 1, wherein said step of electronically communicating the disposition status of the respective shipped goods further comprising the step of shipping said ordered goods from said respective delivery agent to a respective buyer.

3. (original) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 1, wherein said communications network is an Internet based communications system.

4. (previously presented) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of selecting at least one delivery date based on available delivery capacity for each respective delivery agent.

5. (previously presented) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of adding delivery information to said electronic manifest, wherein the delivery information is added by the respective supplier, and the delivery information comprises a quantity, type, and delivery date of respective goods to be delivered to said respective delivery agent.

6. (previously presented) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 5, wherein each respective buyer selects a delivery date for each respective good based on an available delivery schedule identified in said electronic manifest.

7. (previously presented) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 1, wherein said order information communicated by a respective buyer

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45 comprises a brand of good, type of good selected, model number of the good selected, an installation service selected, a delivery address, and a delivery date selected.

8 (previously presented) The method of delivering goods is recited in claim 7, further comprising:

generating a respective invoice, wherein said respective invoice is generated by said logistics intermediary; and

communicating the respective invoice from said logistics intermediary to said respective store.

9 (previously presented) The method of delivering goods is recited in claim 8, further comprising the step of communicating respective master requisition labels and associated manufacturer shipping labels from said logistics intermediary to said respective delivery agent.

10 (previously presented) The method of delivering goods is recited in claim 9, further comprising the step of communicating said respective master requisition labels and an associated manufacturer shipping number from said logistics intermediary to said respective store.

11 (previously presented) The method of delivering goods is recited in claim 10, further comprising the step of communicating said respective manufacturer shipping number and associated shipping address from said respective store to said respective supplier.

12 (previously presented) The method of delivering goods is recited in claim 11, further comprising the step of generating a respective purchase order, advance shipping notice, and purchase order label associated with a respective master requisition number, wherein the respective purchase order, the advance shipping notice, and the purchase order label are generated by said respective supplier.

13 (previously presented) The method of delivering goods is recited in claim 12, further comprising the step of communicating a respective purchase order notice from said respective supplier to said respective store.

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14 (previously presented) The method of delivering goods is recited in claim 9, further comprising the step of communicating a respective manufacturer shipping number and associated shipping address from said logistics intermediary to said respective store.

15 (previously presented) The method of delivering goods is recited in claim 14, further comprising the step of delivering respective goods from said respective supplier to said respective delivery agent.

16 The method of delivering goods is recited in claim 15, further comprising the step of said respective delivery agent testing equipment.

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17. (currently amended) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 6, claim 15, further comprising the step of said respective delivery agent attaching the shipping labels to the goods, wherein the shipping labels are attached by said respective delivery agent.

18. (currently amended) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 17, further comprising the step of said respective delivery agent communicating the shipping status and exceptions from said respective delivery agent to said logistics intermediary.

19. (currently amended) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 14, further comprising the step of said logistics intermediary communicating the shipping status and exceptions from said respective delivery agent to said respective store.

20. (currently amended) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 13, further comprising the step of said respective store communicating the shipping status and exceptions from said respective store to said respective supplier.

21. (currently amended) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 20, further comprising the step of said respective delivery agent confirming the respective good delivery date and associated delivery time of day with said respective buyer, wherein the respective good delivery date and associated delivery time of day are confirmed by said respective delivery agent.

22. (currently amended) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 21, further comprising the step of said respective delivery agent delivering the

at least one delivery agent coupled to said communications network, wherein said at least one delivery agent is adapted to deliver goods and install the goods ordered by the respective respective buyer based on information in said electronic manifest; and

at least one store coupled to said communications network, wherein said at least one store is adapted to receive order information generated by each respective buyer and communicate the order information to said logistics intermediary via said communications network.

29. (original) The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 25, wherein said communications network is an Internet based communications network.

30. (original) The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 29, wherein said communications network further comprises at least one computing unit A having a display and being adapted to be coupled to an Internet based server.

31. (original) The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 30, wherein said communications network further comprises a computing unit B having a display and being adapted to communicate with said at least one computing unit A via the Internet based server.

32. (currently amended) The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 31, wherein said computing unit B is adapted to house the electronic manifest and the delivery management system system for delivery of goods.

receiving goods from the respective respective goods, wherein the respective goods are delivered to the respective buyer by said respective delivery agent.

23. (currently amended) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 17, further comprising the step of said respective delivery agent communicating the shipping status and exceptions from said respective delivery agent to said logistics intermediary.

24. (original) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 5, wherein the delivery information comprises the quantity of goods, type of goods, and delivery date of respective goods to be shipped to each respective delivery agent.

25. (currently amended) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 7, wherein the installation service desired comprises the type of installation of the respective respective good at the respective buyer address in address of the respective buyer.

26. (currently amended) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 16, wherein the step of noting exceptions comprises the step of identifying "overage", "shortage", "damage", and "suspend".

27. (currently amended) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 16, wherein the step of recording the shipping status and exceptions from said respective delivery agent to said respective store comprises the step of identifying "complete", "damage", "refusal", and "cancel".

28. (currently amended) A system for delivering goods from a plurality of suppliers to a plurality of buyers based on respective orders placed by the plurality of buyers, said system comprising:

a communications network;

a logistics intermediary coupled to said communications network, said logistics intermediary having an electronic manifest, wherein said logistics intermediary is adapted to adjust good delivery based on an exception report;

33. (original) The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 31, wherein said computing unit A further comprises a scanner, said scanner being adapted to scan bar code labels and to upload and download data via said respective computing unit A to said logistics intermediary.

34. (original) The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 33, wherein said scanner further comprises a scanner display and keyboard input.

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35 (original) The system for delivery of goods is recited in claim 28, wherein said logistics intermediary is configured to generate a master requisition label, individualized manufacturer shipping labels, and an advanced shipping notice.

36 (previously presented) The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 28, wherein said logistics intermediary is configured to communicate with a respective store, a respective delivery agent, and a respective supplier.

37 (previously presented) The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 36, wherein said logistics intermediary is configured to communicate with said respective store, and respective delivery agent, and said respective supplier in a manner selected from a group including, but not limited to, via, and the Internet.

38 (previously presented) The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 28, wherein a respective supplier is configured to generate a purchase order for a respective store based on the order information generated by the respective buyer.

39 (previously presented) The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 32, wherein a scanner employs a computer program having an exception report and a disposition report.

40 (previously presented) The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 39, wherein said scanner employs the computer program having an exception report comprising a coverage menu, a storage menu, a damaged menu, and a suspend menu, each respective menu being selectable from a display of said scanner.

41 (previously presented) The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 39, wherein said scanner employs the computer program having a disposition report comprising a complete menu, a damage menu, a refusal menu, and a cancel menu, each respective menu being selectable from the display of said scanner.

42 (currently amended) A system for integrating information for the delivery of goods from a supplier to a buyer, the system having at least one delivery agent, at least one store, at least one supplier, and a plurality of buyers, and system comprising:

means for creating a communications network to transfer order and shipping information between a respective supplier, a respective delivery agent, and a respective store;

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means for utilizing a logistics intermediary coupled to said communications network, said logistics intermediary being configured to employ an electronic manifest;

means for providing order and shipping information to the at least one delivery agent and the at least one supplier, wherein said at least one delivery agent is adapted to deliver and install a first set of goods ordered by the respective buyer based on information in said electronic manifest;

means for scheduling a shipment of a second set of goods produced by the at least one supplier based on said order and shipping information, and an exception report, wherein said at least one supplier is configured to generate order reschedules of the second set of goods based on conditions of the first set of goods provided by said at least one delivery agent to said at least one supplier via said logistics intermediary, and the at least one supplier is configured to generate the order reschedules by creating the order reschedules based on the conditions reported by the respective delivery agent via a graphical user interface after the first set of goods are received by the respective delivery agent that delivers the first set of goods to the respective buyer, wherein said at least one supplier is configured to generate the order reschedules based on at least one of:

a reception, via a graphical user interface, of whether the goods within the first set are received as being damaged after the first set of goods is received by the at least one delivery agent; and

an exception reception, via the graphical user interface, of whether the first set of goods shipped to the at least one delivery agent is not expected to be received by the at least one delivery agent; and

means for updating the electronic manifest after the order has been executed.

43. (original) The system for integrating information as recited in claim 42, wherein said means for utilizing a communications network comprises means for the at least one store to receive said order information generated by each respective buyer and communicate the order information to said logistics intermediary.

44. (previously presented) The system for integrating information as recited in claim 42, wherein said means for utilizing a communications network further comprises:

means for said logistics intermediary communicating with the respective store, the respective delivery agent, and the respective supplier in a manner selected from a group including, mail, e-mail, fax, and the Internet.

45. (previously presented) The system for integrating information as recited in claim 44, wherein means for updating the electronic manifest further comprises means for generating said exception report.

46. (original) The system for integrating information as recited in claim 45, wherein said exception report comprises an overage item, a shortage item, a damaged item, and a suspended item.

47. The system for integrating information as recited in claim 45, wherein said exception report comprises a "complete" item, a "damage" item, a "refusal" item, and a "cancel" item.

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48. (previously presented) The system for integrating information as recited in claim 47, wherein means for updating the electronic manifest further comprises means for generating a disposition report.

49. (previously presented) The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 28, wherein said logistics intermediary is further configured to adjust good deliveries based on a disposition report.

50. (currently intended) A system having at least one delivery agent, at least one store, at least one supplier, and a plurality of buyers, wherein the at least one delivery agent, the at least one store, and the at least one supplier are coupled to a communications network, and system comprising:

a logistics intermediary configured to electronically communicate respective invoice information to a respective delivery agent based on an electronic manifest, and logistics intermediary further configured to electronically communicate respective invoice information via a server to said respective delivery agent, said respective invoice information generated from respective order information, and respective delivery agent configured to store exceptions and electronically communicate same via the server the exceptions to said logistics intermediary, said at least one supplier configured to respond based on conditions of a plurality of shipped goods, provided by said respective delivery agent to said at least one supplier via said logistics intermediary, and the at least one

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supplier configured to generate a plurality of order reschedules by creating the order reschedules based on the conditions reported by the respective delivery agent via a graphical user interface after the goods are received by the respective delivery agent that delivery the goods to one of the buyers, wherein the at least one supplier configured to schedule a pick-up of an overage good upon receiving an entry, via a graphical user interface, of the overage good, wherein the overage good is received by the respective delivery agent and is not expected to be received by the respective delivery agent, and

a respective store configured to contemporaneously communicate via the server respective order information to said logistics intermediary.

51. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 50, wherein said logistics intermediary further configured to electronically communicate exceptions to a respective supplier.

52. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 51, wherein said logistics intermediary configured to electronically communicate exceptions to a respective store from which goods were ordered.

53. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 51, wherein said respective delivery agent configured to electronically communicate a disposition status of respective shipped goods to said logistics intermediary and said logistics intermediary configured to update said electronic manifest.

54. (previously presented) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 1 further comprising notifying the delivery agent of said rescheduling of the order via a graphical user interface.

55. (previously presented) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 1, wherein the respective shipped goods are not expected to be received by the respective delivery agent based on one of a shipping notice sent to the respective delivery agent before the respective shipped goods are received by the respective delivery agent.

56. (new) The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 1 wherein said rescheduling an order based on the conditions comprise rescheduling the order based on whether the respective shipped goods are damaged after the respective shipped goods are received by the respective delivery agent.